

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Previously Presented)** A coupling structure, comprising:

- a shaft body including a slip-off preventing groove;
- a shaft joint including:
  - an engagement groove with which the shaft body is engaged;
  - a shaft joint body with two bores facing the engagement groove; and
  - a locking body press-fitted into one of the bores; and
- a coupling shaft for coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint by being inserted into the bores and slip-off preventing groove and locked with the locking body,

the shaft joint further including:

- a regulating tongue for regulating movement of the shaft body;
- a plate body press fitted between the locking body and the shaft joint by the locking body and having a flexible member for guiding a positioning recess of the shaft body into the shaft joint and a curved portion; and
- a supported portion extending from the curved portion of the plate body, superposed between a surface of the locking body and a surface of the shaft joint body, and having a projection incised into at least one of the shaft joint and locking body,

wherein at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body has a recessed portion into which the projection is fitted.

**2. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to Claim 1, wherein the projection has hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

**3. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is made of spring steel with hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

**4. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to Claim 3, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore ~~of~~on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**5. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is formed of a material with hardness not higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, and the hardness of the projection is made higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying surface treatment.

**6. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to Claim 5, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**7. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**8. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to Claim 1, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**9. (Previously Presented)** The coupling structure according to claim 2, wherein the projection is formed of a material having a first hardness less than or equal to a hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, the hardness of the projection is increased to a second hardness greater than the hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying a surface treatment.

**10. (Currently Amended)** A coupling structure, comprising:  
a shaft body;

a shaft joint including an engagement groove with which the shaft body is engaged, a shaft joint body with two bores facing the engagement groove, and a locking body press-fitted into one of the bores; and

a coupling shaft for coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint by being inserted into the bores and locked with the locking body,

the shaft joint further including:

a regulating tongue for regulating movement of the shaft body;

a plate body having a curved portion; and

a supported portion extending from the curved portion of the plate body, superposed between a surface of the locking body and a surface of the shaft joint body, and having a plurality of projections,

wherein both the shaft joint body and the locking body have a recessed portion into which at least one of the plurality of projections ~~a projection~~ is fitted.

**11. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 10, wherein the one projection has hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

**12. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 11, wherein the one projection is made of spring steel with hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

**13. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 12 , wherein the one projection is formed by providing a through bore on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**14. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 11, wherein the one projection is formed of a material with hardness not higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft

joint body and the locking body, and the hardness of the projection is made higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying surface treatment.

**15. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 14, wherein the one projection is formed by providing a through bore on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**16. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 11, wherein the one projection is formed by providing a through bore on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**17. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 10, wherein the one projection is formed by providing a through bore on the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

**18. (Currently Amended)** The coupling structure according to Claim 11, wherein the one projection is formed of a material having a first hardness less than or equal to a hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, the hardness of the one projection being increased to a second hardness greater than the hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying a surface treatment.